

firm grip on the movement. This lack of cohesion gave the princes and lords the opportunity of attacking in detail, and thus discounting numbers by tactics. Moreover, the moderate party, which was for compromise to the extent of the modification of the articles, did not pull with the extreme party, which would hear of nothing but a compulsory levelling of society. The operations in Franconia show, indeed, some attempt to carry out a combined movement against the Frauenberg, the castle of the Bishop of Wurzburg. Here a formidable concentration of the insurgent bands from Franconia and Würtemberg, under Gotz von Berlichingen, Florian Geyer, George Metzler, and Wendel Hipler, took place. But the peasant army was but an ill-disciplined horde, which could not be taught to obey orders, and got drunk whenever a chance offered. "The peasants were always drunk," we are told, "and would not be ruled by any man." Time was wasted in negotiations, and the attack on the Frauenberg proved a disastrous failure.

Those of the Black Forest and the Breisgau had a gleam of success in the capitulation of Freiburg, while across the Rhine the men of Alsace, to the number of twenty thousand, compelled Zabern to open its gates. Further north the insurgents took a town here and there, and wrested from the Elector Palatine Ludwig the promise of concessions and a general amnesty. But the capitulation of a town here and there, and the exaction of a few promises from Elector Ludwig, who invited some of the peasant leaders to dine with him at Neustadt, were far from bringing about the peasant millennium.

Still further north, in Thuringia, where Miinzer was preaching fire and sword on the popular side, with a ferocity equal to that of Luther on behalf of the higher orders, the movement, though wearing a very threatening aspect, never rose above the level of local revolt. Miinzer, indeed, contemplated an united crusade which should swell over the whole of Germany, but he had not time to realise his project, and was besides too much of a visionary to succeed in the attempt. He managed to set the Thuringian region ablaze with revolt; when it came to organised resistance the campaign broke miserably down. His prophecies of divine intervention, after the manner of the Old Testament, only